Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
March 3 - 9, 2016

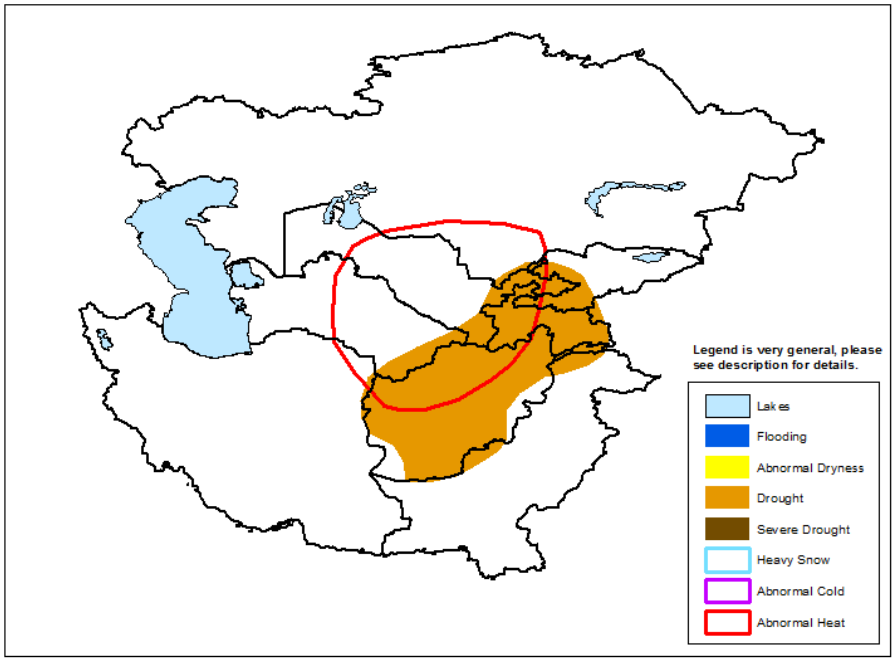
Temperatures:

Temperatures averaged 4 to 12 degrees C above normal across much of Central Asia from February 21 to 27. Maximum temperatures reached 30 degrees C across southern Turkmenistan, southern Uzbekistan, and western Afghanistan during late February. Unseasonably warm temperatures are expected to persist across southern areas of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan along with western Afghanistan. The GFS model indicates that maximum temperatures will range from the upper 20s to lower 30s (degrees C) across these areas which is more 12 degrees C above-average during early March.

Precipitation

Dry weather persisted across most of Central Asia from February 21 to 27 with light precipitation (less than 5 mm) limited to northwest Kazakhstan. According to the gridded-gauge CPC Unified precipitation data, 90-day precipitation deficits exceed 25 mm across a large area centered over Afghanistan. The recent dry weather accompanied by much above-normal temperatures resulted in a sharp decline in snow-water volume values across the river basins of Afghanistan. Since many of these basins currently have their lowest snow water volume value dating back to 2001, drought is now posted for Afghanistan along with Tajikistan.

During the next week, precipitation (locally more than 25 mm) is forecast to occur across central and southern Afghanistan. This precipitation would be beneficial and decrease the precipitation deficits.



Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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